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Livelihood & Food Security
Technical Assistance

Quarterly Report #3
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BACKGROUND

The **L**ivelihood and **F**ood Security **T**echnical Assistance (LIFT) project is designed to work in close collaboration with US Government (USG) agencies, implementing partners, and other key players to integrate sustainable, market-driven livelihoods strengthening into food and nutritional security interventions. LIFT aims to heighten the impact of work done through USAID, PEPFAR, Feed the Future, USDA, CDC, and the Peace Corps, as well as local governments, civil society, and the private sector. LIFT's ultimate goal is to support the food security of vulnerable households by improving their livelihoods and economic circumstances.

The USAID Global Health Bureau's Office of HIV/AIDS (OHA) established the LIFT project as an Associate Award under the FIELD-Support Leader with Associates (LWA) Cooperative Agreement, managed by AED. LIFT is a five-year project (2009-2014) that draws together leading organizations with expertise in the areas of economic strengthening and food security. Under LIFT, AED partners with Care International (CARE) and Save the Children US (SAVE) as well as a robust group of resource organizations, to provide high-impact technical assistance to USG country teams and their implementing partners, and to offer leadership and strategic learning to the field of livelihood strengthening and food security as a whole. LIFT works in partnership with FANTA-2 (Food And Nutrition Technical Assistance project), and is in the process of establishing relationships with other key USG projects and initiatives around food security.

LIFT will improve vulnerable households' ability to access food through market-led sustainable livelihoods strengthening interventions, thereby leveraging the investments that the US Government, local governments, multilateral agencies, bilateral donors, civil society organizations and the private sector have made toward increasing food security.

ACTIVITIES

1. GLOBAL

1.1 LIFT Partners and Stakeholders Meeting

LIFT convened a strategic meeting with partners and stakeholders in Pretoria, South Africa from April 5-9, 2010 to discuss the existing state of the practice in livelihoods and food security, and engage with key players around shaping LIFT's future direction. Organizations participating in the meeting included USAID/OHA, USAID/South Africa, MEASURE Evaluation, AED (LIFT, FANTA-2, representatives from the AED/South Africa office), CARE, and Save the Children. The objectives of the meeting were to: discuss the development of a livelihoods' framework; discuss how LIFT Partners will work together for maximum efficiency and effectiveness; engage in activity and approach strategizing and planning; understand opportunities for LIFT vis-à-vis the Feed the Future Initiative; and strategize around country technical assistance and follow-up.

1.2 Livelihood & Food Security Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Meeting

LIFT convened a Livelihoods & Food Security M&E meeting from April 28-29, 2010 in Washington, D.C., to discuss the development of cross-cutting M&E tools and resources relevant to economic strengthening, livelihoods, and food security. Participants in the meeting included representatives from USAID/OHA, the PEPFAR Food and Nutrition Technical Working Group, MEASURE Evaluation, AED (FANTA-2, Africa's Health in 2010, and LIFT), CARE and Save the Children. The monitoring and evaluation meeting resulted in a rich dialogue around measurement options for the various economic strengthening components and livelihoods work to be considered by LIFT.

1.3 Livelihoods & Food Security Conceptual Framework

Recognizing the need to for a unified conceptual framework to guide donors and practitioners in understanding and responding to livelihoods and food security realities at household level, LIFT worked to develop a livelihood and food security conceptual framework. This framework is intended for use by national governments and global livelihoods and food security stakeholders to support effective integrated and harmonized approaches. LIFT contracted Dr. Gary Woller of Woller & Associates to spearhead framework development. A draft framework narrative was developed and circulated for comment to a range of LIFT stakeholders, including Jason Wolfe from USAID/MD, Leah Berkowitz and other representatives from CARE, Lisa Parrott from Save the Children, and recognized consultants Jim Dempsey, Jill Thompson, Ben Fowler and Bobbie van Heftern. Currently, the framework is undergoing revision based on stakeholder comments before circulation to additional stakeholders and finalization.

1.4 Livelihoods & Food Security Global Resource Directory

Under Save the Children's leadership, LIFT has continued to develop and expand its Global Resource Directory by incorporating additional key documents identified by research staff and partners, as well as colleagues in the field. Over 100 key documents are currently categorized within the directory, and Save the Children is actively seeking recommended documents/studies/case studies from peer organizations.

1.5 Global Nutrition & HIV Indicator Set's Food Security Component

LIFT provided feedback, through USAID/OHA, into the review and refinement of the food security component of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) guidance intended to support implementation of the global nutrition and HIV indicator set developed in a joint WHO/PEPFAR, multi-stakeholder consultation held in July, 2009. In the next quarter, LIFT will participate in the Consultation meeting that develops the M&E guidance further.

1.6 Strengthening NACS Wraparound Services Targeting Livelihoods and Food Security concept

LIFT designed and submitted a concept paper to USAID/OHA on *Strengthening NACS Wraparound Services Targeting Livelihoods and Food Security*. The concept describes a proposed activity, to take place across three East African countries, with the aim of demonstrating how to create effective linkages between clinic-based NACS programs and livelihood support services. LIFT proposes facilitating effective practices in three country contexts, documenting them, and producing guidelines to be used by other NACS programs worldwide.

1.7 Livelihoods & Food Security Help-Desk concept

LIFT contracted Dr. Gary Woller to develop a concept paper for a Livelihoods & Food Security M&E Help Desk, which could be operated through LIFT. LIFT discussed that concept paper and the FANTA-2 experience in operating a similar mechanism with Kristen Cashin, Technical Support Services Manager for FANTA-2.

1.8 Care & Support Assessment on Linkages to Livelihoods and Food Security funding

LIFT was awarded \$50,000 from the PEPFAR Care and Support Technical Working Group. The funding will add a care and support lens to a LIFT assessment to provide insights into the relationship between livelihood and food security activities and access to care and support services.

1.9 Economic Strengthening & Food Security Web Portal

In order to create a respected platform for livelihood and food security resources, communities of practice and discussions, LIFT contracted Grand Junction Design to create an open source web platform to be managed by LIFT. The platform is expected to be launched during the next quarter

and to house the Livelihoods & Food Security Global Resource Directory and a sub-site dedicated to LIFT.

2. COUNTRY-SPECIFIC

2.1 Namibia Livelihoods & Food Security Desk & Field Assessment

After completing the desk and field livelihoods and food security assessment in northern and southern Namibia in the previous quarter, the first draft of the Namibia Assessment Report was completed this quarter and shared with USAID/Namibia, as well as distributed to key stakeholders, including FANTA-2 and Pact/Namibia, for review and comment. LIFT compiled stakeholder edits and comments and initiated a revision to the draft Field Assessment Report, which is expected to be completed in late July.

2.2 Namibia Livelihoods & Food Security Technical Assistance Associate Award concept

LIFT held a follow-up meeting with USAID/Namibia in April to review the Namibia Livelihoods & Food Security Assessment Report draft and investment recommendations. USAID/Namibia expressed interest in engaging LIFT for technical assistance in assisting implementing partners in operationalizing the field assessment recommendations. LIFT drafted a Scope of Work for these activities to take place under a FIELD-Support Associate Award for the Mission's review and input.

2.2 Nigeria Livelihoods & Food Security Assessment

LIFT continued to engage with USAID/Nigeria around potential technical assistance activities. LIFT and USAID/Nigeria met in April to discuss how LIFT could support the goals and objectives of the Mission in regards to improving livelihood and food security of PLHIV and their caregivers. The Mission expressed particular interest in technical assistance activities that would diversify and strengthen the economic alternatives for commercial sex workers, appropriate activities for OVC support, and opportunities for vulnerable youth.

LIFT developed a Concept Paper and Scope of Work for technical assistance activities in Nigeria, and shared them with partners and stakeholders. LIFT has already received \$400,000 for this assistance from USAID/Nigeria, which was included in the original LIFT award and needs to finalize activities with the Mission.

Preparation for the technical assistance activity began in this quarter through compiling strategic and relevant publications and other resources that will feed into the desk review segment of the assessment, which provides the historical and sectoral grounding for livelihoods and food security assessment. LIFT began to reach out to qualified individuals to solicit their interest and availability to participate in field-based TA activities in Nigeria.

2.3 Malawi Livelihoods Review within the HIV/AIDS Portfolio and Implementing Partner Capacity Strengthening

LIFT met twice with the USAID/Malawi team to discuss the Mission's livelihoods and food security portfolio and possible technical assistance needs. USAID/Malawi is interested in having LIFT conduct a review of existing livelihood activities in the HIV/AIDS portfolio and to provide technical assistance around two mechanisms the Mission is developing to integrate livelihoods and food security with HIV/AIDS programming.

LIFT developed a SOW for TA activities, and is awaiting Mission feedback on the objectives and schedule for the TA assignment. The LIFT team has begun compiling publications and other resources to feed into the development of a Desk Review specific to the past and current livelihood and food security situation in Malawi.

2.4 Ethiopia Livelihoods & Food Security Assessment and PEPFAR Livelihoods' Portfolio Review

LIFT responded to a SOW from USAID/Ethiopia to review and assess economic strengthening activities within the Mission's HIV/AIDS portfolio. The TA will involve a desk review that will provide background for the livelihood, food security and HIV/AIDS context in Ethiopia and identify key areas of investigation and key contacts for a field assessment of the livelihood strengthening activities in the USAID/Ethiopia HIV/AIDS portfolio.

LIFT compiled resources for the desk review and began assembling two teams of consultants: one to conduct the desk review, which is a concrete deliverable under the LIFT approach, and another to conduct the field assessment, with an intentional, substantial overlap in the composition of the two teams. The desk review will begin in July, and the draft report based on desk research will be submitted in early August. The field-based portfolio assessment will take place from August through to September, with delivery of the final report in October, 2010.

3. OPERATIONAL

3.1 Communications and Outreach

- The LIFT project was presented to the SEEP HIV/AIDS and Microenterprise Development (HAMED) working group in Washington, D.C., during their bi-annual working group sessions by Ntongi McFadyen from Save the Children.
- The LIFT project was presented to the USG PL10-995 community at their 2-day conference in Washington, D.C., by LIFT Project Director, Margie Brand.
- LIFT spent half a day in June 2010 with Ashley Blocker and Clinton Sears, USAID/OHA interns, discussing the project and the draft livelihoods framework.
- LIFT created a project brochure and poster that describe the project, technical services offered, and how to access LIFT services.

3.2 Staffing

- This quarter, Shilpa Surendran joined the LIFT team as a summer intern through Save the Children. Shilpa is supporting the development of the LIFT Resource Library, as well as providing support to country desk assessments.
- The LIFT team began working on interviewing additional full-time staff members. AED identified a candidate for the role of Senior Specialist who will start working full time with LIFT in September. AED also began interviews for positions to be filled in the next quarter. Save the Children initiated a candidate search for one full-time employee dedicated to LIFT.

3.3 Contracting

LIFT issued the following contracts in the quarter:

- Consultant Agreement to Gary Woller
- Consultant Agreement to James Dempsey
- Consultant Agreement to Joan Hall
- Consultant Agreement to Jill Thomson

3.4 Deliverables

LIFT prepared and submitted the following deliverables to USAID during the quarter:

- Quarterly Report #2 (FY2010, Quarter 2)
- Quarterly Accruals Report

SUCSESSES

- The submission of the draft assessment report to USAID/Namibia marked the successful conclusion of LIFT's first TA activity and first official collaboration with FANTA-2.

- The Partner Meeting and M&E Meeting established LIFT on a sound technical footing and laid the groundwork for future collaborations among stakeholders.
- LIFT has established robust communication among the core partners, AED, CARE and Save the Children; has developed effective partnerships with related programs, like FANTA-2 and MEASURE Evaluation, and is establishing relationships with external initiatives, such as IFPRI.
- LIFT outreach, with continued leadership from USAID/OHA, is starting to show success, with multiple USAID Missions expressing interest in accessing LIFT services.

CHALLENGES

- Save the Children has struggled to understand how to dedicate sufficient and appropriate personnel and time to growing the LIFT portfolio. One way to address this challenge has been to increase the amount of time the principal technical advisor can spend on the project, while reducing the time of others who do not have the same skill sets for the work at this time. In addition, making the decision to hire a full-time LIFT Specialist will assist in giving the project more focus and dedicated staff time, as well as technical input and better representation in Washington DC.
- Working cross-sectorally poses a special set of challenges and opportunities. LIFT is constantly assessing the effectiveness of project communication around economic strengthening with practitioners and donors who come from other technical backgrounds. This has, on occasion, required multiple approaches and clarifications to information LIFT wishes to relay, but has been useful in helping project staff identify which approaches and messages are most effective with particular audiences.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

1. Global

- Attend and present at PEPFAR's Regional Meeting in Uganda in September 2010.
- Present at the Save the Children annual global HIV and AIDS program learning group (approximately 50 participants) regarding LIFT and emerging practices in HIV and economic strengthening/food security.
- Finalize and launch the Economic Strengthening for Food Security website, incorporating a dedicated section for LIFT and the Resource Library, among other features.
- Finalize the LIFT Workplan for Year 2.
- Finalize the Livelihood and Food Security Conceptual Framework.
- Participate in the Consultation for Development of a Joint Global Framework for Action and Monitoring and Evaluation Guidance for Nutrition and HIV Activities in July.

2. Country-specific

- Conduct Ethiopia technical assistance assessment activity.
- Continue plans for TA activities in:
 - a. Namibia
 - b. Nigeria
 - c. Malawi
- Begin discussing potential TA activities with USAID/Zambia and USAID/Mozambique.

ANNEXES

LIFT Meeting Log – FY10 Q3

Connecting and Collaborating

Date	Topic	Attendees
4/1/2010	FANTA-2 and LIFT Collaboration Meeting	Peggy Parlato (AED/GHPN), Bonnie Barhyte (AED/LIDG), Mark Ketcham (AED/CECD), Anne Swindale (FANTA-2), Tony Castleman (FANTA-2), Gilles Bergeron (FANTA-2), Linda Sanei (AED/GHPN), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT)
4/5/2010	USAID/Nigeria and LIFT collaboration Meeting	Philomena Irene (USAID/Nigeria), Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA) (USAID/OHA), LIFT Team
4/6/10-4/9/10	LIFT Partners Meeting	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Nerisa Pilime (USAID/South Africa), Leah Berkowitz (CARE), Dan Mullins (CARE), Lisa Parrott (SAVE), Alison Tumilowicz (AED/FANTA-2), Ben Fowler (LIFT Cons.), Jean Tshiula (AED/South Africa), Viwe Mtshontshi (AED/South Africa), Gary Woller (Woller & Associates), Silvia Alayon (MEASURE), LIFT Team
4/8/2010	USAID/Malawi and LIFT Collaboration Meeting	Sandra Sandison (USAID/Malawi), Violet Orchardson (USAID/Malawi), Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
4/10/10-4/12/10	RENEWAL Strategy Meeting	Leah Berkowitz (CARE)
4/12/2010	IFPRI / RENEWAL and LIFT Meeting	Scott Drimie (IFPRI), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
4/20/2010	M&E Guidelines & Evaluation Framework	Kristen Wares (USAID/OHA), Anna Williams (USAID/OHA), Silvia Alayon (MEASURE) , Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
4/22/10-4/23/10	IRCW Economic Strengthening for Adolescent Girls Symposium	Leah Berkowitz (CARE)
4/27/2010	Namibia Assessment Discussion	Lisa Parrott (Save), Leah Berkowitz (CARE), Gary Woller (Woller & Associates), LIFT Team
4/27/2010	Africa's Health in 2010 and LIFT Collaboration Meeting	Winston Allen (AED/Africa2010), Kathleen Kurz (AED/Africa2010), Gary Woller (Woller & Associates), Leah Berkowitz (CARE), LIFT Team
4/28/10-4/29/10	LIFT Livelihoods & Food Security M&E Meeting	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Pamela Ching (CDC), Silvia Alayon (MEASURE), Tony Castleman (AED/FANTA-2), Pamela Fergusson (AED/FANTA-2), Vicky Michener (AED/FANTA-2), Thierry van Bastelaer (Save), Winston Allen (AED/Africa2010), Gary Woller (Woller & Associates), LIFT Team
5/4/2010	Save the Children and LIFT Meeting	Lisa Parrott (Save), Ntongi McFadyen (Save), Thierry van Bastelaer (Save), Gary Woller (Woller & Associates), LIFT Team
5/6/2010	Joan Hall Technical Assistance Activity Consultancy	Joan Hall (Independent Consultant), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
5/6/10- 5/7/10	PL109-95 Meeting with USAID/OGAC, USAID/DCOF, USAID/OHA, USAID/South Africa, Dept. of State, Dept. of Labor, IRC	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
5/7/2010	Grand Junction Design and LIFT Meeting	Margaux O'Malley (GJD), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT)
5/10/2010	AED-wide Food Security Meeting	Peggy Parlato (AED/GHPN), Bonnie Barhyte (AED/LIDG), Mark Ketcham (AED/CECD), Richard Bossi (AED/SC), Anne Swindale (AED/FANTA-2), Tony Castleman (AED/FANTA-2), Gilles Bergeron (AED/FANTA-2), Robert Mwadime (AED/FANTA-2) Omar Dary (AED/A2Z), Kathleen Kurz (AED/Africa2010), Laura Dominguez (AED/GHPN), LIFT Team
5/12/2010	Partnership to End Hunger and Poverty in Africa: Food Security in Malawi	Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT)
5/19/2010	USAID/Malawi and LIFT Collaboration Meeting	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Sarah Sandison (USAID/Malawi), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine

5/19/2010	USAID/Malawi and LIFT Collaboration Meeting	Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Sarah Sandison (USAID/Malawi), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT)
5/20/2010	USAID/Namibia Technical Assistance Activity (TAA) Meeting	Ochi Ibe (USAID/Namibia), Melissa Jones (USAID/Namibia), Tim Quick (USAID/OHA), Amie Heap (USAID/OHA), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
5/20/2010	Partnership to End Hunger and Poverty in Africa: Food Security Symposium with Rajiv Shah	Margie Brand (AED/LIFT) Brand (AED/LIFT)
5/21/2010	Save the Children and LIFT Meeting	Lisa Parrott (Save), Ntongi McFadyen (Save), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT), Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT)
5/24/2010	FANTA-2 and LIFT Collaboration Meeting	Tony Castleman (AED/FANTA-2), Wendy Hammond (AED/FANTA-2), LIFT Team
5/26/2010	WDI Presentation: Comparing Donor-Driven Value Chain Programs and Enterprise-Led Initiatives	Lam Huynh (AED/LIFT)
5/26/2010	FANTA-2 and LIFT Collaboration Meeting	Phil Moses (AED/FANTA-2), Bobbie van Haeften (Cons.), LIFT Team
6/1/2010	M&E Guidelines & Evaluation Framework	Gary Woller (Woller & Associates), Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
6/2/2010	Technical Assistance Help Desk Paper Meeting	Kristen Cashin (AED/FANTA-2), Jennine Carmichael (AED/LIFT), Clint Curtis (AED/LIFT)
6/7/2010	OHA/LIFT Interns Meeting	Ashley Blocker (USAID/OHA), Clinton Sears (USAID/OHA), LIFT Team
6/21/10 - 6/25/10	USAID Economic Growth Officers' Conference	Margie Brand (AED/LIFT)
<i>Key: USAID/OHA: Tim Quick, Amie Heap</i>		